

National Council on Family Relations

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March 28, 1972

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TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: David H. Olson, Ph.D., Chairman
E. James Lieberman, M.D., Co-Chairman
Family Action Committee of NCFR

REGARDING: Affirmative Action Regarding Equal
Rights Amendment

The Family Action Committee (FAC) is pleased to announce that the Equal Rights Amendment was just passed by the United States Senate (March 22, 1972) and has been sent to the States for ratification.

For the first time in the history of NCFR, a position has been taken on a national issue of relevance to all women and families and this information has been provided to Congressmen before voting on the issue.

In support of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Family Action Committee of NCFR prepared a letter which informed the Senators of our concern regarding this Amendment and urged them to vote for the Amendment. The letter also contained supportive documents regarding the Amendment.

The initiative for this action was proposed by Jessie Bernard, and a core group composed of Jessie Bernard, Robert Ryder, James Lieberman and myself prepared the materials.

While this action is a first for NCFR, it is hoped that it will represent only a beginning in the organization's continuing efforts to speak in an affirmative way for legislation related to the improvement of individual and family life in this country.

QUARTERLIES JOURNAL OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY
CARLFRED B. BRODERICK, EDITOR

THE FAMILY COORDINATOR: JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, COUNSELING, AND SERVICES
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March 17, 1972

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Hon. James B. Allen
U.S. Senate

Dear Senator Allen:

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is a national organization composed of nearly 5000 interdisciplinary professionals whose major interest is the family in the United States. On behalf of the Family Action Committee of the NCFR we urge support for the Equal Rights Amendment now being considered by the U.S. Senate. In support of this Amendment we point out that:

1. The Amendment guarantees full rights of citizenship to the over half of the population who are women.

2. It is invalid to argue that such an Amendment would deprive women of the rights of alimony, since at present such rights are rarely enforced even when granted, and in fact usually prove to be unenforceable.

3. It is not true that such an Amendment would necessarily result in women being drafted into the armed forces, to the detriment of the family. At present, men who are the sole support of families may claim exemption. Similarly, persons needed for the care of their children can be granted exemption.

4. The argument that the Amendment would deprive women of the protection of labor laws is invalid, since the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has had the effect of nullifying their impact. In any event, exceptions have always been made in such industries as canning, domestic service, etc.

For all these reasons, we strongly support the Equal Rights Amendment and urge that it be passed without nullifying changes.

Respectfully yours,

David H. Olson, Ph.D.
Chairman

E. James Lieberman, M.
Co-Chairman

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